

## BOARD FOR BRANCH PILOTS MEETING

### MINUTES

The Virginia Board for Branch Pilots met on Friday, July 28, 2006, at the Virginia Port Authority, 600 World Trade Center, Norfolk, Virginia, with the following members present:

Captain Robert H. Callis, III  
Bruce R. Cherry  
Captain J. William Cofer  
Captain Milton B. Edmunds  
Robert T. Hasler, Jr.  
William M. Martin, III  
Captain W. Hugh McCrory, Jr.  
Meade G. Stone, Jr.

Staff present for the meeting were:

Jay W. DeBoer, Director  
Mark N. Courtney, Executive Director

Cynthia Norwood, Assistant Attorney General, was present at the meeting.

Board member Judge Edgar A. Massenburg was absent from the meeting.

Finding a quorum of the Board present, Mr. Hasler, President, called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

#### **Call to Order**

Mr. Cherry moved to approve the agenda as written. Mr. Stone seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs. and Captains: Callis, Cherry, Cofer, Edmunds, Hasler, Martin, McCrory, and Stone.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Cherry moved to approve the minutes from the May 1, 2006, Board meeting as amended. Mr. Martin seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs. and Captains: Callis, Cherry, Cofer, Edmunds, Hasler, Martin, McCrory, and Stone.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Captain Callis provided the Board with a report of the examinations conducted by the Examination Administrators on July 27, 2006. The following report was made:

#### **Examination Administrators Report**

Joseph R. McKnew

Mr. McKnew has successfully completed his first two years of the Virginia Pilot Association's apprenticeship program. Mr. McKnew has taken and passed a comprehensive written examination for his initial license. Mr. McKnew answered oral questions related to the initial license. These subjects included courses and distances from Cape Henry to Town Point and to the James River Bridge, local traffic, safe anchoring positions in Sewell's Point, Lynnhaven and Newport News, anchoring techniques, docking and undocking situations, bridge restrictions and clearances, master/pilot exchange of information, proper use of radar and DGPS unit and safe vessel speed. Mr. McKnew stood a good examination and was found qualified. Captain Callis moved that Mr. McKnew be granted a limited branch pilot license with an Alpha classification (125 ship units with a draft up to 25 feet or 200 ship units with a draft up to 23 feet). Mr. Cherry seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs. and Captains: Callis, Cherry, Cofer, Edmunds, Hasler, Martin, McCrory, and Stone.

Mr. Hasler presented Mr. McKnew with his license and congratulated Mr. McKnew on his accomplishment. Mr. McKnew also introduced his girlfriend and family to the Board.

#### J. Whiting Chisman

Captain Chisman answered oral questions related to the extension of route on the York River. The subjects included courses and distances from Cape Henry to Cheatham Annex, local traffic, high water transit times, bridge restrictions, safe anchoring positions, under keel clearance and safe vessel speed. Captain Chisman stood a good examination and was found to be qualified. Captain Callis moved that Captain Chisman be granted an extension of route from Cape Henry to Pages Rock upon the York River. Mr. Stone seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs. and Captains: Callis, Cherry, Cofer, Edmunds, Hasler, Martin, McCrory, and Stone.

#### William G. Diggs

Captain Diggs answered oral questions related to the extension of route on the James River. The subjects included courses and distances from the James River Bridge to Richmond, local traffic, bridge restrictions, high water transit times, docking and undocking, safe anchoring positions, daylight restrictions, and safe vessel speed. Captain Diggs stood a good examination and was found to be qualified. Captain Callis moved that Captain Diggs be granted an extension of route from James River Bridge to Richmond upon the James River. Mr. Cherry seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs. and Captains: Callis, Cherry, Cofer, Edmunds, Hasler, Martin, McCrory, and Stone.

Herbert R. Green

Captain Green answered oral questions related to the extension of route on the York River. The subjects included courses and distances from Cape Henry to Cheatham Annex, local traffic, high water transit times, bridge restrictions, safe anchoring positions, under keel clearance and safe vessel speed. Captain Green stood a good examination and was found to be qualified. Captain Callis moved that Captain Green be granted an extension of route from Cape Henry to Pages Rock upon the York River. Mr. Cherry seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs. and Captains: Callis, Cherry, Cofer, Edmunds, Hasler, Martin, McCrory, and Stone.

Torrence A. Rogers

Captain Rogers answered oral questions related to the raise in grade. The subjects included safe anchoring positions in Lynnhaven and Sewell's Point, bank suction and cushion, overtaking situations, maneuvering characteristics of loaded vessels and safe vessel speed. Captain Rogers stood a good examination and was found to be qualified. Captain Callis moved that Captain Rogers be raised from the Echo classification (475 ship units and 33 feet maximum draft) to the Foxtrot classification (550 ship units and 35 feet maximum draft or 375 ship units and 38 feet maximum draft). Mr. Stone seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs. and Captains: Callis, Cherry, Cofer, Edmunds, Hasler, Martin, McCrory, and Stone.

Clarence M. Young

Captain Young answered oral questions related to the raise in grade. The subjects included safe anchoring positions in Lynnhaven and Sewell's Point, bank suction and cushion, overtaking situations, maneuvering characteristics of loaded vessels and safe vessel speed. Captain Young stood a good examination and was found to be qualified. Captain Callis moved that Captain Young be raised from the Echo classification (475 ship units and 33 feet maximum draft) to the Foxtrot classification (550 ship units and 35 feet maximum draft or 375 ship units and 38 feet maximum draft). Mr. Stone seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs. and Captains: Callis, Cherry, Cofer, Edmunds, Hasler, Martin, McCrory, and Stone.

Jacob R. Johnson

Captain Johnson answered questions related to the raise in grade. The subjects included safe anchoring positions in Lynnhaven and Sewell's Point,

docking and undocking situations, small boat traffic, and safe vessel speed. Captain Johnson stood a good examination and was found to be qualified. Captain Callis moved that Captain Johnson be raised from the Charlie classification (325 ship units with a draft up to 29 feet) to the Delta classification (400 ship units with a draft up to 31 feet). Mr. Stone seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs. and Captains: Callis, Cherry, Cofer, Edmunds, Hasler, Martin, McCrory, and Stone.

Michael S. Eubanks

Captain Eubanks has successfully completed the Virginia Pilot Association's apprenticeship program. Captain Eubanks answered oral questions related to the raise in grade. The subjects included safe anchoring positions in Lynnhaven and Sewell's Point, tidal transit times, chain of command and nomenclature of naval vessels, overtaking situations, maneuvering characteristics of loaded vessels and safe vessel speed. Captain Jamison stood a good examination and was found to be qualified. Captain McCrory moved that Captain Jamison be raised from the Hotel classification (725 ship units and a maximum draft of 41 feet or 550 ship units and a maximum draft of 45 feet) to an unlimited branch pilot license. Mr. Stone seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs. and Captains: Callis, Cherry, Cofer, Edmunds, Hasler, Martin, McCrory, and Stone.

The Board members reviewed the legislative proposal prepared by staff for consideration for the 2007 legislative session. Captain McCrory moved that the Board submit the following proposed legislation for consideration:

**Discussion of  
Possible Legislation**

**§ 54.1-909. License as limited branch pilot.**

Any apprentice may apply to the Board for a license as a limited branch pilot. The Board may grant him a license after proper examination if in the opinion of the Board the applicant is qualified. The Board may endorse on the license a such limitations of draft or ship units as ~~deemed it deems~~ proper, and a limited branch pilot shall perform his duties of piloting and conducting vessels within the limitations imposed by his license.

Mr. Martin seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs. and Captains: Callis, Cherry, Cofer, Edmunds, Hasler, Martin, McCrory, and Stone.

Captain Callis moved to adopt the following meeting and examination dates for 2007:

**Set 2007 Meeting  
Dates**

Thursday, February 1 – Examination Administrators  
Friday, February 2 – Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 1 – Examination Administrators  
Wednesday, May 2 – Board Meeting  
Thursday, July 26 – Examination Administrators  
Friday, July 27 – Board Meeting  
Thursday, November 1 – Examination Administrators  
Thursday, November 1 – Board Meeting  
Monday and Tuesday, December 3 and 4 – Renewals  
Monday, December 10 – Board Meeting

Mr. Stone seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by Messrs. and Captains: Callis, Cherry, Cofer, Edmunds, Hasler, Martin, McCrory, and Stone.

Mr. Courtney informed the Board that Mr. Cherry has had 28 years of perfect Board meeting attendance. The Board congratulated and thanked Mr. Cherry for his continued commitment to the Board.

**Other Business**

Mr. Courtney introduced the new Director of DPOR, Jay W. DeBoer, to the Board. The Board welcomed Mr. DeBoer.

Conflict of Interest forms were completed by all members present.

**Conflict of Interest  
Forms**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

**Adjourn**

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Robert T. Hasler, Jr., President

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Jay W. DeBoer, Secretary